

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sandra Leigh Hatfield et al.                      Art Unit : 3765  
Serial No. : 10/644,552    Examiner : Patel, Tajash D.  
Filed : August 19, 2003  
Title : ADJUSTABLE CONCEALED BODY ARMOR

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANT'S' STATEMENT REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF  
THE OCTOBER 30, 2007 INTERVIEW

Further to the Examiner's Interview Summary of the October 30, 2007 telephonic interview, Applicants agreed to clarify the language in claim 1 by reciting the feature of the shoulder straps/suspension tabs being adjustable within the outer shell as supported in the specification filed on March 26, 2007. Applicants further agreed to cancel claim 6, as this limitation is present in amended claim 1, and to cancel claims 8-13.

As discussed with Examiner in the telephone interview on October 30, 2007, the claims to be allowed are listed as follows with the Examiner's amendments added:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.6(a) (4) that this correspondence is being transmitted via the United States Patent and Trademark Office electronic filing system on the date indicated below.

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Allowed Claims:

1. A body armor system for protecting a user from penetration, comprising:
  - a front protective section for overlying the chest region of the user;
  - a rear protective section for overlying the back of the user;
  - a flexible right shoulder strap and a flexible left shoulder straps fastened to right and left shoulder regions, respectively, of the rear section, wherein the straps extend over the right and left shoulders of the user for attachment to corresponding right and left portions of the front section;
  - an outershell, the outershell includes a shoulder area;
  - wherein the shoulder straps are at least partially hidden within the outershell shoulder area, wherein the shoulder straps include means for adjusting within the outershell shoulder area, and wherein each of the shoulder straps is indirectly attached to a front ballistic panel by stitching through the front ballistic panel and at least one suspension tab at the right shoulder region of the front ballistic panel and at least one suspension tab at the left shoulder region of the front ballistic panel, the right shoulder straps being removably attached by at least one of hook and loop material to the at least one suspension tab at the right shoulder region of the front ballistic panel and the left shoulder straps being removably attached by at least one of hook and loop material to the at least one suspension tab at the left shoulder region of the front ballistic panel; and
  - wherein a stabilizer loop is directly sewn to the ballistic panel to stabilize the ballistic panel against the user's body.
2. The body armor system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a hidden zipper in the front protective section where the ballistic panel is inserted.
3. The body armor system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a slit in a bottom of the front protective section where the ballistic panel is inserted.

4. The body armor system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a cummer band attached to an inside of the outershell to provide additional security to the rear section.
5. The body armor system of claim 1, further comprising:  
the front protective section having substantially no seams or attachment points.
7. The body armor system of claim 1 wherein the pair of flexible right and left shoulder straps are indirectly attached to a rear ballistic panel in the rear protective section by stitching through the rear ballistic panel and at least one suspension tab at the right shoulder region of the rear ballistic panel and at least one suspension tab at the left shoulder region of the rear ballistic panel, the right shoulder straps being removably attached to the at least one suspension tab at the right shoulder region of the rear ballistic panel and the left shoulder straps being removably attached to the at least one suspension tab at the left shoulder region of the rear ballistic panel.

REMARKS

Applicants submit that all the claims are now in condition for allowance as discussed with the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed.

No fee is due at this time. However, Applicants also conditionally petition for any necessary additional extensions of time to provide for the possibility that the need for such extensions has been inadvertently overlooked. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2324 for any necessary additional extensions of time or any additional fee(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 5, 2007

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